

November 16, 2000

U.S. Food and Drug Administration,
Dockets Management Branch
5600 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20785

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To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this letter to urge you to grant the petition to prohibit the slaughter of downed animals-**docket number 98P-0151/CP1**.

The slaughter of downed animals is an extremely inhumane practice, in which I'd like to believe we are all above. Besides being disgustingly cruel, it is a serious health hazard to human animals. Some points I would like to make include:

*Animals who are too sick or injured even to stand should not be allowed to enter the human food chain.

*In addition to posing an increased risk for bacterial contamination, there is evidence that some downed animals may be afflicted with a form of BSE (Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy or "Mad Cow Disease"), a disease which has been linked to a fatal human illness (CJD or Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease).

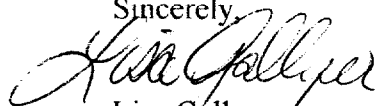
*It is practically impossible to move downed animals humanely, and they are typically pushed with tractors or dragged with chains—inhumane processes which cause injuries ranging from bruises and abrasions, to broken bones and torn ligaments.

*Downed animals comprise a very small percentage of animals slaughtered, and prohibiting their marketing will cause no undue economic hardship.

*Industry experts have estimated that 90% of downed animals can be prevented with better care and handling. Removing the market for downed animals will provide an incentive for the industry to prevent downed animals in the first place.

Knowing all of these issues I see no reason to continue this brutal/dangerous practice, and hope with all my might that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration sees it in this light as well. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Lisa Gallyer

98P-0151

C3059



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THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES



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